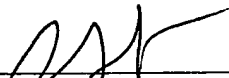




PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 2, 2006.*

  
Shannon L. Stewart

Applicant : Gregory Bates, et al.  
Application No. : 10/673,828  
Filed : September 29, 2003  
Title : LASER WELD MONITOR

Confirmation No. 2536

Grp./Div. : 1725  
Examiner : Maria Alexandra Elve

Docket No. : 51210/U56

**REQUEST TO CHANGE ENTITY STATUS**

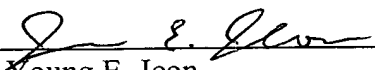
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Post Office Box 7068  
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068  
August 2, 2006

Commissioner:

This is a notification that the Assignee claim Small Entity Status. Please update your records indicating the change in entity status, from a large entity to a small entity.

Respectfully submitted,  
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By   
Jun-Young E. Jeon  
Reg. No. 43,693  
626/795-9900

JEJ/sls

SLS PAS693337.1\*-08/2/06 2:48 PM

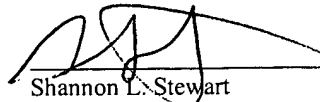


PATENT

Date of Notice of Allowance : May 10, 2006

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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Confirmation No. 2536

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

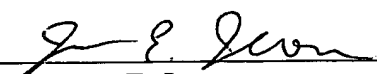
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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Post Office Box 7068  
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068  
August 2, 2006

Commissioner:

The Applicants believe the Examiner's stated reasons for allowance are unnecessary. The record as a whole makes clear the reasons for allowance and therefore a statement by the Examiner is not necessary or warranted. While the Applicants agree that the claims are allowable, the Applicants do not acquiesce in the stated reasons for allowance, nor that patentability required each stated feature as expressed by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,  
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By   
Jun-Young E. Jeon  
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626/795-9900

JEJ/sls  
SLS PAS693366.1-\*08/2/06 2:28 PM